

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 18 - 22 have been amended. The following is a complete listing of the claims, which replaces all previous versions and listings of the claims.

1-17. (cancelled)

18. (currently amended) In a system for measuring a physiological parameter using at least one wavelength of electromagnetic energy transmitted through living tissue, a method for determining an operational status of the system comprising ~~the steps of:~~

receiving a data signal from at least one sensor;

determining whether the received data signal is representative of the physiological parameter by accessing ~~sensing~~ whether the at least one sensor is secured to the living tissue, wherein the accessing comprises analyzing a frequency spectrum corresponding to the at least one wavelength to determine a percentage of energy contained in a subset of the frequency spectrum; and

generating a status signal representative of the operational status of the system based on the determining ~~step~~.

19. (currently amended) The method of claim 18 wherein the accessing ~~determining~~ ~~step~~ comprises ~~the step of~~ measuring an output level corresponding to the at least one wavelength.

20. (currently amended) The method of claim 18 wherein the system uses at least two wavelengths of electromagnetic energy to measure the physiological parameter, and the accessing ~~determining~~ steps comprises ~~the step of~~ monitoring a correlation between data corresponding to a first wavelength and data corresponding to a second wavelength.

21. (currently amended) The method of claim 18 wherein the accessing ~~determining~~ step comprises ~~the step of~~ analyzing a frequency power spectrum corresponding to the at least one wavelength to determine a percentage of energy contained in a subset of the frequency power spectrum.

22. (currently amended) The method of claim 18 wherein the accessing ~~determining~~ step comprises ~~the step of~~ monitoring an amplitude of the data signal for a first interval.